GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:643
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
SUGARCANE DUES
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Patil Shri Pratik Prakashbapu;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees of sugarcane farmers and workers are still due against sugar mills at present;

(b) whether the farmers in many States have committed suicide due to non payment of arrears to them by sugar mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance provided by the Government to the sugar factories for clearing their dues;

(d) whether the Government is considering to explore the alternative uses of sugarcane in other products so that sugarcane farmers may get remunerative price for their produce;

(e) whether the Government has received any memoranda in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The outstanding cane price arrears of farmers for the last sugar season 2006-07 stood at Rs.1651.45 crore as on 30.11.2007. Information on dues of workers is, however, not maintained by this Department.

(b): No case of suicide by sugarcane farmers due to non-payment of sugarcane dues has been reported by any State Government in the current sugar season.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): Sugarcane is crushed mainly for production of sugar, gur and khandsari. However, the Government has recently amended the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 vide Notification dated 28.12.2007 permitting sugar factories to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane juice. No other proposal is under consideration of the Government to explore alternative uses of sugarcane in other products.

(e): No such memorandum has been received in recent days.

(f): Does not arise.